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TRANSVERBALIZATION OF LATIN

I have read with interest Mr. E. Cutler Shedd's article on the Translation of Latin, but I wish to protest vigorously against the idea that what he calls "transverbalization" is either a necessary or an advisable process at any stage of Latin study. Within the limits of dignity and the postal regulations one can hardly use the adjectives which fitly characterize the English resulting from this process, as applied to almost any passage in Latin more than three words long. So far as using the process to test the pupil's knowledge of the Latin constructions is concerned, many other tests seem to me far more effective than the pupil's ability to substitute an abominable travesty on English for good Latin. But Mr. Shedd would have the boy "transverbalize" to acquire a feeling for the Latin order. I am unable to see that he is going to get any real help as to the Latin order, which really means something, by the violent wrenching into an outwardly similar order of another language, so different in its nature that when so arranged it suggests nothing but raving insanity. No, a nice appreciation of the delicate shades of meaning and emphasis in one language is never to be secured by applying the bludgeon to another. From the very start let the Latin teacher instruct his pupils to make the translation of each phrase, sentence and paragraph an exercise in English composition, getting at the thought of his Latin text to the very best of his ability and then putting the thought, the whole thought, and nothing but the thought into the very best English at his command. In that way a real pride in orderly and effective English may be awakened and such a pride is likely to be the best security a teacher will ever get that the pupil will, in the course of time, come to appreciate those qualities which gave to the Latin language its peculiar power.

W. H. JOHNSON

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[How to teach the art of translation to very young pupils seems still as far from solution as ever. Mr. Shedd's "transverbalization" is admittedly a process which is to be abandoned as soon as the pupil has "grasped the main grammatical principles"—which period he regards as the latter part of the Caesar year. The crucial period seems, in his mind, to lie where others put it, viz. in the first year, and in the beginning of the connected reading (Caesar). Here opinions are as wide apart as the poles; and undoubtedly success will depend very largely upon the ability as well as the temperament of the teacher. It is quite evident that Mr. Shedd's pupils find the work "more vitally interesting and more practical" than they would if he taught them in a different fashion. It is quite as evident that Pro-

fessor Johnson could produce no good effect at all from such a method—while he doubtless does make his work just as effective in a different way. So there you are! So far as the earlier stages of Latin are concerned *quot homines, tot sententiae*. —G. L.]

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES

Fellowships will be awarded in the American School of Classical Studies in Rome, as follows: one in Roman Classical Archaeology, with a stipend of \$600, one in Christian Archaeology, with a stipend of \$600, and two fellowships for Research, maintained by the Carnegie Institution (one in Roman Classical Archaeology and one in Roman Literature or Roman Classical Archaeology), each with a stipend of \$800.

The fellowship in Roman Classical Archaeology and that in Christian Archaeology will be awarded chiefly on the basis of competitive written examinations, although other evidences of the ability and attainments of the candidates will be considered.

The two fellowships for research at the School in Rome will be awarded to present or former members of the School, and at the discretion of the Committee on Fellowships to other candidates of special qualifications without an examination.

Application for these fellowships should be made not later than February 15, 1908.

The candidate must announce in writing his intention to offer himself for examination. This announcement must be made to the Chairman of the Committee on Fellowships, Professor James C. Egbert, Columbia University, New York City.

On application, a suitable blank will be forwarded to the candidate to be filled out and returned to the Chairman. This blank must give information in regard to the studies and attainments of the candidate.

The examinations will be held in Athens, in Rome, and in all the universities or colleges represented on the Managing Committee of the School, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 9, 10 and 11, 1908.

Detailed information in regard to the examinations will be forwarded on request. All inquiries on the subject of the fellowships of the School in Rome should be addressed to Professor James C. Egbert, Columbia University, New York City.

All interested in effecting a permanent organization embracing all former students of the American School of Classical Studies at Rome are requested to send their names and any suggestions they may care to make to Mr. C. Densmore Curtis, 171 East 83d Street, New York. A dinner on some date in April is contemplated.

THE NEW YORK LATIN CLUB

will hold its second luncheon of the year at the Hotel Marlborough, at Thirty-sixth Street and Broadway, New York City, on February 15. Luncheon will be served promptly at noon, and will be followed by an address by

Dr. Edgar S. Shumway, of the Manual Training High School, Brooklyn, on The Sources of the Law.

All persons interested in any way are invited to be present, whether they are members of the New York Latin Club or not

Those wishing to attend the luncheons are requested to notify Mr. A. L. Hodges, 309 West 101st Street, New York. Tickets for one luncheon are \$1.00, for the two remaining luncheons of the year, \$1.50. Payment may be made by mail to Mr. Hodges or at the luncheons.

It is hoped that at the third luncheon the address will be by Professor Hendrickson, who has just come to Yale from Chicago University.

On Monday afternoon, Nov. 25, 1907, Mr. George Horton, Consul General at Athens, lectured at Columbia University under the auspices of the Archaeological Institute on The Greeks of To-day.

Mr. Horton is of the opinion that the modern Greeks are in every sense true descendants of the ancient Greeks, and possess many of their characteristics, both good and bad. The persistence of the language is strong presumptive evidence of the continuity of race. It is a mistake to suppose that the modern tongue is radically different from the ancient. The syntax has been simplified, some classical words have been forgotten and others substituted, but it is remarkable how few foreign words are used by cultivated Greeks. Many that are cited as showing that Greek has deteriorated are in reality good Greek words that have come into use quite naturally. It is in fact strange to note how similar the language of the ancient lyrical poets is to modern Greek. As an instance the lecturer recited a fragment of Sappho and then indicated the few changes necessary to turn it into modern Greek.

A comparison of modern Athens with the Athens of 1821 under Turkish rule is, Mr. Horton feels, a justification of the philhellene, if one should regard only the improvements in the streets and public buildings. The Greeks themselves believe strongly that one day their empire will be rejuvenated and that Constantinople will be its seat. As a consequence of this conviction many wealthy Greeks have devoted themselves to the task of founding educational institutions to aid in regaining their educational supremacy, and also to hellenizing parts of the world formerly under their sway. A large number of Greek schools and teachers are found in all parts of Asia Minor.

The lecture was closed by a series of pictures of Greece as it is to-day, including its charitable and educational institutions, industries, etc.

THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY

is published by The Classical Association of the Middle States and Maryland. It is issued weekly, on Saturdays, from October to May inclusive, except in weeks in which there is a legal or school holiday, at Teachers College (120th Street, West of Amsterdam Avenue), New York City.

All persons within the territory of the Association who are interested in the literature, the life and the art of ancient Greece and ancient Rome, whether actually engaged in teaching the Classics or not, are eligible to membership in the Association. Application for membership may be made to the Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Knapp, Barnard College, New York. The annual dues (which cover also the subscription to THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY) are two dollars.

To persons outside the territory of the Association the subscription price of THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY is one dollar per year.

THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY is conducted by the following board of editors:

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Communications, articles, reviews, queries, etc., should be sent to the editor-in-chief. Inquiries concerning subscriptions and advertising should be sent to the business manager.

ROEHR PUBLISHING CO., PRINTERS
35 MYRTLE AVE., BROOKLYN

Telephone, 2500 Prospect

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